

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
New National Stage Entry Appln. of PCT/FI03/00332

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of storing sensitive information in a system comprising two databases, the method comprising ~~at least the steps of:~~
receiving a storage request including the information to be stored and a first identifier for identifying an individual with whom the information to be stored is associated;
characterized by
generating (507) a second identifier in such a manner that its value does not depend on the first identifier;
storing (508) the first identifier and the second identifier in the first database in such a manner that the first identifier is bound to the second identifier; and
storing the information to be stored in the second database together with the second identifier.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized by** further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

checking (505), before generating the second identifier, in the first database if a second identifier is generated for the first identifier;
if so, using the second identifier in the first database; and

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if not, generating the second identifier.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized by~~ further comprising the steps of:

receiving a retrieval request including the first identifier;

retrieving the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier from the first database; and

retrieving the requested information from the second database using the second identifier.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the a step of sending, to the request, a response including the requested information and the first identifier.

5. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication server (12, 22) in a data system comprising at least two databases and a system for generating information to be stored, the telecommunication server comprising

reception means (121) for receiving a request, the request including the information to be stored and a first identifier for identifying an individual with whom the information to be stored is associated;

~~characterized in that the telecommunication server (12, 22) further comprises~~

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first processing means (122) for determining a second identifier corresponding to the first identifier in the first database of the data system, the second identifier being generated in such a manner that its value does not depend on the first identifier; and

second processing means (122) for storing the information to be stored together with the second identifier in the second database of the data system.

6. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication server (12, 22) as claimed in claim 5,
characterized in that wherein

the reception means (121) are also arranged to receive a data retrieval request and to separate it from the storage request; and

the second processing means (122) are also arranged to retrieve the data stored together with the second identifier from the second database of the data system in response to the data retrieval request and to forward the retrieved data without the second identifier to the party making the data retrieval request.

7. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication server (12, 22) in a data system comprising at least two databases and a system comprising stored data, the telecommunication server comprising

reception means (121) for receiving a request, the request being associated with the stored data and including a first identifier for identifying an individual with whom the stored data is associated;

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~~characterized in that the telecommunication server further comprises~~

first processing means (122) for determining a second identifier corresponding to the first identifier in the first database of the data system, the second identifier being generated in such a manner that its value does not depend on the first identifier; and

second processing means (122) for retrieving the stored data together with the second identifier from the second database of the data system.

8. (Currently Amended) A network node comprising

a database (DB1) for storing data, and

reception means (31) for receiving a request directed to the database and for separating a first identifier in the request, the first identifier identifying an individual with whom the data to be stored is associated;

~~characterized in that the network node further comprises~~

generation means (32) for generating a second identifier for the first identifier in such a manner that the value of the second identifier does not depend on the first identifier;

storage means (32) for storing the first identifier and the second identifier in the database in such a manner that the first identifier is bound to the second identifier; and

response means (31) for returning the second identifier in response to the request.

9. (Currently Amended) A network node as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~
further comprising

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~~it further comprises~~ processing means (32) for checking if the database comprises a second identifier for the first identifier, and, if not, to trigger the generation means; and wherein the generation means (32) are configured to be responsive to the processing means.

10. (Currently Amended) A data system comprising

at least one telecommunication server (12, 22)

~~at least two databases (DB1, DB2)~~

~~characterized in that~~

~~the at least a first database (DB1) comprises comprising~~ records wherein a first identifier identifying an individual is linked to at least one second identifier, which alone does not identify the individual and whose value is generated in such a manner that it does not depend on the first identifier;

~~the at least a second database (DB2) comprises comprising~~ sensitive information stored in such a manner that each piece of personal information is bound to the corresponding second identifier; and wherein

the telecommunication server (12, 22) is arranged to determine a second identifier corresponding to the first identifier in the database in response to a request including the first identifier, to delete the first identifier from the request, to add the second identifier to the request and then to send the request to the second database.